

SHIRT WAISTS TO YOUR FANCY

VIVID COLORS HAVE NOW TAKEN THE PLACE OF WHITE.

The Sailor, the Quaker and the Surplice the Newest Models—Tailor Waists Very Plain—Radical Changes in the Sleeves—Blouse's Enduring Favor.

The shirt waist has become an institution. It has a national aspect. Indeed there is more truth than mere cleverness in the saying that one style in shirt waists makes all women kin. It is the most democratic garment ever designed, a destroyer of caste, a proof that common sense is not limited to any one social stratum.

To say that shirt waists will go out because they are common is as though one were to question the permanence of the Constitution because it was not planned exclusively for the 400. The shirt waist unquestionably will not meet its downfall because of its popularity. An unworthy fashion may come to an end because it is loved not wisely but too widely, but not so with fashions that stand for smartness and convenience and wholesomeness.

It is the pretty, hygienic freshness of the shirt waist that has given it its hold with the most wholesome and exquisitely groomed women in the world. For with one smart tailor suit a woman can be daintily dressed a whole season if she has half a dozen well cut, well made shirt waists.

In the summer time it does not so much matter, for there are cotton frocks so simple that a couple a week can easily be afforded, but in the winter, with heavy fur and woollen wraps, the blessing of fresh shirt waists is boundless.

Since matinee jackets and lounging robes, however lovely, are barred from the breakfast table in these well groomed days, the shirt waist has grown to be the accepted garment for early morning wear. And so one is ready for shopping, marketing, business or outdoor sports without loss of

are dotted or striped with color or have a broché figure or are checked with blocks of color. Cotton chevrot is usually striped and Madras has the broché effect.

The cotton and wool chevrot looks exactly like the all cotton, except that it



comes also in plaids and brilliant two-toned checks, and the wash flannels show all the loveliest of the new fall shades, the dabble, copper, coque de roche, onion skin and oak tones, from the palest to the deepest and richest hues.

and affords an opportunity for interesting color effects. The butcher's linen in the model shown is in dull blue vegetable dye, with a modified sailor collar and button band of bright red linen embroidery on a still duller ground of blue, the scarlet out-lined with black.

In place of a sailor shield there is a chemise of white linen and a stand-up linen collar with a black silk flowing sailor tie. The belt is of black patent leather.

The sleeves show the newest and smartest shirt waist cut—a slight fullness at the armhole, scarcely any at the cuff, and a distinct widening out at the elbow. The cuffs point up on the sleeve and down on the hand, and have just a showing of the embroidery.

This blouse would be especially pretty with a jaunty short kilt skirt of very dark blue storm serge, or of motor red, made to fit close about the hips by overlapping the plaits, which are not caught below the knee. Such a skirt of the dark blue would be pretty over a drop petticoat of red, exactly reaching the lowest edge of the hem. And October winds might reveal a glint of it to match the blouse embroidery or the sunnyside hedge.

The Quaker shirt waist is demure and sensible, crisp and businesslike, and quaintly feminine—a cross between Philadelphia and New York.

The body of the waist is just a plain cosmopolitan blouse without any special flavor, loose and full enough and inconspicuous. The Quaker effect is gained by a three piece cape, the back part cut circular and extending over the shoulders, where the front pieces are tucked on to the

Fancy an ivory white chevrot with a faint violet stripe, neatly tucked and machine stitched with violet silk, cut in the plainest old time surplus way, crossing neatly over the bosom, buttoned with fine trimness by violet art nouveau buttons, and then instead of a bit of yellow lace for a bib, a stiff linen shield and boy's turnover collar and conventional string tie. It is as though the American girl were appealing to her sense of humor, to her appreciation of piquancy, by her odd sartorial conceits.

The sleeves for this blouse are too new not to have special mention. There is a wide circular puff to just below the elbow,



then fine tucks to meet a narrow cuff. This upper puff and long cuff is the most fashionable sleeve, so far, of the fall.

A few shirt waist houses, however, are utterly ignoring eccentricities, even novelties, and putting out the plainest sort of mannish shirt in cotton or linen. The favorite colors are comforter blue, pale copper, and the yellow of the line skin.

The model is very broad across the shoulders and wide over the bust, without any fullness except a gather or two at the belt. There is a two inch front box plait, and an inch and a half turnback plait from shoulder to belt, double stitched. There are a turnover linen collar and regular shirt sleeves with scarcely noticeable gathers at the cuff. The back has a short yoke and no plait.

This is one of the few designs considered smart in all white, but in linen only, not cotton.

A chevrot skirt, short, plaited not unlike the waist, is simple and not too heavy, and the leather belt matches the skirt. The buttons on the skirt plaits may also be of leather.

The revers shirt waist is one of the plainest of the new designs of cotton and linen only. It must be extremely well made to carry out its aim of swagging trimness.

The cut is of the broadest and widest, and it takes a full, high chest and correct carriage to maintain that fine expanse properly. It is perfectly plain except for the revers turning back on each side from the fastenings of the fronts, which meet with tiny buttons and loops. Two-thirds



of the way to the waist line the revers narrow abruptly.

The regular short sleeve, with the new elbow spring, a plain mannish collar, black satin string tie and black patent leather belt, complete this shirt waist.

A very stunning skirt for such a waist as this, or to wear with any shirt waist, is the new circular model, fitting without seam or wrinkle over the hips and flaring out about the feet like the old bell skirt, a design practicable only with heavy, closely woven stuffs, for where there's a will there's a way to stretch across the bias of a circular skirt.

Tailors, too, are turning out very fine examples of the plain shirt waist, usually with the deep round yoke or stole shoulder yoke. The former, in fine wool or silk, or a combination of the two, is very effective.

A golden brown Rajah silk with broadcloth a shade lighter is stunning worn with an accordion plaited skirt of the silk. The front is tucked on the yoke as the full sleeves are. The yoke is of deep ivory satin with a scalloped band of the cloth running from stock to belt, and all with fine hand stitching of very dark blue silk.

A pretty girle of dark blue velvet worn with it has a buckle of dull bluish silver and blue enamel.

A tailor design of Louise has a stole yoke with band extending to the belt. The blouse is gauged to fit the circle of the yoke. The rest of it is plain and almost without fullness.

The sleeve puffs lap over and button like a coat from the elbow, then end in a plait drooping over a fitted cuff. Such a waist would demand a skirt in harmony of dark onion skin silk or wool.

And of course there is the infinite variety of new cotton waists, made with the upper part of the blouse tucked down to the bust and then the full puff to the belt, or plaited with attached edges from neck to waistline. The latter idea is the most popular model of a very well known waist house and is shown not only in linen and madras, but also in wash flannel and heavy chevrot.

These simple waists are worn with coat suits, with tweed golf skirts and with light cashmere full skirts indoors.

A very new design indeed for starched materials has the double box plait front. The sleeve, also with a wide plait, extends up to the shoulder to meet the outer plait. It is tucked into a narrow space at the shoulder and again into the cuff.

This shirt is extremely becoming to tall, well built girls, who have well muscled shoulders and a fine carriage.

MAIDS-OF-ALL-WORK SCARCE,

AND SO THERE IS SORROW IN MANY A CITY FLAT.

Proprietors of Employment Agencies Try to Account for the Lack of General-Housework Servants—Ambitious Mistresses One Cause—A Reaction Coming.

One of the most important personages in New York just now is the general housework servant. She enjoys the distinction of being eagerly sought after.

Never by any chance does she undergo the mortification of encountering, in an intelligence office at least, the cold shoulder. The glad hand is hers whichever way she turns. Her enviable lot is not of course the outcome of any newly discovered qualities she possesses, but is due solely to the fact that she is scarce—as scarce as fresh fruit at a summer resort.

That comparison was made by a housekeeper. She had just come back from a summer resort and was diligently hunting for a housemaid to operate the kitchen machinery of her modern flat. She incidentally remarked that modern improvements hadn't done what was expected of them in making servants contented with their lot.

"In days of portable washbuds," said she, "when a servant was expected to carry coal from the cellar to feed the kitchen fire, and to heat the dish water on the back of the stove in small quantities, she was much happier and more contented than now. Modern improvements seem only to have complicated the servant problem."

There are two sides, though, to every story. At one of the intelligence offices the other day a servant refused point blank to go to an excellent place offered her in a flat because there was no gas range in the kitchen.

"It's not me," she remarked, with a toss of her head, "who will be bothering with a coal range."

And she did not have to bother with one. A half dozen places with gas ranges were awaiting her.

To the uninitiated the scarcity of general housework servants is a puzzle.

The aforementioned woman with a modern flat on her hands and no servant, several agencies in her search for a maid-of-all-work. To her surprise she found that although the proprietors were almost unanimous in saying that there is certainly a dearth of general houseworkers, no two agreed exactly on a reason for it.

One of them thought that there were now just as many women willing to take general housework places as there ever were, but that the demand for them was greater, not only because of the multiplication of flats, but also because there was a larger class of employers than there used to be with comparatively small incomes and disproportionately big notions—women who have extravagant tastes in dress and who cut down on servant hire to put the money saved on their backs.

"Instead of keeping two servants," this agency proprietor said, "they try to do with one, and that one is bound to be a regular army if she pretends to manage the work laid out for her. It is women like that who frighten the general houseworkers into applying for special work."

At another office the proprietor, a French woman, said that in her experience of many years general housework servants had never been so scarce as now, nor did they ever before ask such high wages.

"I know who once was willing to do kitchen work are now applying for places as chambermaid or as chambermaid and waitress," she said. "They want to escape washing and ironing."

"The younger girls in particular who live out hate to do washing, even the plain pieces like bed and table linen. Another complaint of the general houseworker of late is that she is asked to dress up too much while at her work."

"The mistress wants her to wear a cap and to answer the doorbell, no matter what the time of day, in an immaculate white apron and her sleeves to her wrist. She is expected to cook a dinner, which is hot work always, and then serve it wearing a thick white collar and cuffs, serve it in the regalia of a waitress, in fact."

"It is a lot of petty things like that which have helped to sour girls on the general housework question, as well as the fact that their work seems never to be done. Ladies have themselves to blame for sending many a good houseworker out of the ranks, simply because they expected too much style of them."

"When a girl is busy in the kitchen washing dishes, cooking or scrubbing with her sleeves rolled up and collarless, as likely as not, it makes her nervous to be obliged to stop every half hour to roll down her sleeves, put on a white apron and answer the doorbell. And I never saw one yet who took kindly to a cap."

"Ladies who want to keep up a good deal of style must keep two or three servants at least. They certainly make a servant's life miserable by trying to do the stylish act with one maid."

"One thing is sure, however, there are not enough places just now for the girls who register as chambermaids. I can't provide for all those who come to me and I believe it is the same at other offices. Therefore either those girls must accept places to do general housework or else go to work in factories."

"Some of the latter, but I believe that a reaction is setting in in favor of doing housework. If employers were more sensible I think dozens of girls now sitting around idle in hope of getting a special place would close a bargain to take a general housework situation."

In the central part of town is one of the best known intelligence offices. The woman who runs it is well and favorably known and she inspires confidence in the minds of both employers and employees who register in her books.

What is more to the point, she has thought much on the servant problem of late, and like others in her position she has had her troubles. This woman, strange to say, places some of the blame for the present condition of the servant question on a dearth of blame in fact on the proprietors of intelligence offices themselves. Said she:

"Many of them, without perhaps thinking to what it was going to lead, have incited girls to try for positions they were not really able to fill because of the higher wages the girls would get and the consequent higher percentage the office would receive. Sometimes the girls have been encouraged, or rather permitted to try for higher wages and for work which required far more skill than they had, simply out of good nature and a desire to please."

"The other day a lady whom I have served for years came to me for a cook. She confessed that she had before coming to me been prevailed upon to try an intelligence office which was opened under fashionable patronage not very long ago, and to which unemployed girls flock, or did flock, by the hundreds. The lady registered there, paid her fee, made known her wishes. She wanted a first class cook for a family of three and would pay \$30 a month."

"We shall send you one \$25 a month, without fail," was the promise made, and she went home to wait.

"Well, a cook came just before 6 o'clock and when confronted with the materials for a very plain dinner she asked several questions which led to the mistress making some searching inquiries. It turned out that the woman had been only a kitchen maid—a cook's helper—in her previous place. She was sent upstairs again in a hurry to put on her things and clear out."

"Now it's all very well for girls to be ambitious; but it's a crazy, we as dishonored, proceeding to send a kitchen maid to a lady who has asked for a first class cook, or even for a plain cook, and yet it is done over and over again."

"I am constantly advising girls who come



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time, and always looks deliciously, crisply fresh and sweet.

But to keep women of ever changing fancy from growing bored with the shirt waist, even at its best, every season shows a charming variety of new designs



and new material adapted to the good old common sense garment. And, so that the waist is left loose over the bust, shoulders and arms, the girth is none too snug, and it is easy to put on and comfortable to keep on, endless variations can be sprung without a murmur.

The prettiest of the changes this fall are shown in the Quaker, the sailor and the surplice style, all built on shirt waist lines, all simple, washable and adjusted to the athletic figure of the day. These waists are worn with any sort of short skirt—tweed, homespun, hopsack, chevrot, storm serge or Burlington cloth. If of smooth cloth, the skirt harmonizes in color; if of rough, the color is not considered.

As to colors, the first restriction bars out white, that is all white, which has reached the atrophy of an over successful whim. In the cottons, all the prettiest and newest

The wash flannels are the newest waist material, and prophesy, with their fineness, light weight, beautiful colors and qualities in the laundry, a partial eclipse of the handsomest cottons, at least for the women who dread the chill of cotton or linen.

But the fall linens are in wonderful colors, too, quite different from the woollens. They are in the roughest weaves—butcher's linen, coarse homespun and a very rough Japanese weave—and in all the wonderful colors of the old vegetable dyes, the dull blues, greens and yellows of real mummy cloths, and in exquisite terra cotta and real



Indian reds. They, too, wash well and make up a shade smarter in the finish than wool, because of the body in the material.

In the center cut are the three newest ideas in winter shirt waists, one in linen, one in wash chevrot and one in the new wash flannel.

The sailor design in linen will be a widely followed model, because it is easy to make, becoming to both stout and slender women

edge. The fronts then cross modestly over the chest, leaving a heart shaped space to be filled in by a stiff chemise. The cape reaches nearly to the girdle.

As shown in this cut it is of oak brown color.



wash flannel, the cape embroidered about the hem with reddish brown silk. The long tie, which is pulled through a slash in the cape, is of a still deeper brown silk.

The tie and the maidly little cape and the fiercely masculine collar and bib are a sample of this season's many incongruities. The sleeves are a circular puff to meet the deep Puritan fitted cuff, which is also embroidered.

This design is prettiest worn with a full soft cashmere skirt in harmonious tone, with a band or two of velvet for a modest decoration.

The surplice shirt waist, like the others, is an absurd mixture of early nineteenth century demureness with the most exaggerated mannish effects of the ultra masculine sportswoman—Frisilla, with a few details in dress finish copied from the "Earl of Pawtucket."

here to take less instead of more wages, and I tell them plainly when I think they are asking too much. They know I have their good at heart, and really I am sometimes surprised and touched at the way they obey me."

"The other day a young woman had almost agreed to take a place as cook at \$25 a month, when another lady came in in a great hurry for a cook, and offered her \$35. I knew both ladies well, and I understood exactly what each wanted. I took the girl aside and recommended the \$25 job."

"You are fully equal to that," I told her, "and you will have a good home there as long as you want to stay. In the other place the family is larger, the cooking is more elaborate, and you will have to work so hard that in a couple of months you will be all tired out, nervous and anxious to get away."

"You see, I know the girl's disposition. She thought a moment, and then took my advice and I searched around for a cook who could and would fill much more satisfactorily the bill for the other lady who was willing to pay the higher wages."

"I meet girls who are better fitted for general housework than for anything else. I tell them so, even though they come here expecting to register for a place as chambermaid and waitress. I sent one of this kind to a place this morning, and she went off quite happily. She gets only \$18 a month, and yet she demands \$20 at first."

"You are not worth it," I told her. "If you please your employer, and prove yourself worth more than \$16 a month, you may be sure she will give it to you."

"I have a good many general houseworkers on my books, and I have really had girls tell me that they preferred to be in a place alone, because there was no one to mope up their kitchen after they got the work done."

"All the same, I can't begin to supply the demand I have for general houseworkers. In my opinion, though, the solution of the servant problem rests largely with the intelligence office proprietors."

FOR SMALL PACKAGES.

Superiority of the New York Shirt Waist

Over the Boston Shopping Bag.

The New York girl was about to go shopping with her Boston cousin, when she was asked, "What's that thing?" she glanced at a not too respectful tone, as she glanced at the cousin's Boston bag.

The cousin gave a little start of shocked surprise, and said, with a reproachful look through her glasses:

"Why, I intend to deposit my purchases in my bag. I always take it with me."

This last was almost a tone of awe, but the New York girl only muttered, "That's right; you do."

"How do you dispose of your small parcels?" asked the Boston girl.

"You'll see," was the answer as they scrambled off the elevated.

When they reached home after a weary eight hour day the shopper from the Hub had been thoroughly initiated into the New York method of stowing away droops of small bulk, it seemed incredible, but with her own eyes she saw her cousin draw forth from the voluminous front of her shirt waist:

Two pairs of gloves.
Two yards of chiffon veiling.
Several yards of ribbon.
A remnant of wash silk.
Half a dozen handkerchiefs.
A bunch of hairpins.
One package of hairpins.
One box of nail polish.
One package of embroidery silk.
One made-up-free-of-charge bow.
Five skeins of embroidery silk.
Cord for sofa pillow.

"I should think that you would feel like a shoplifter or an ostrich," said the Boston girl.

"Beats the Boston bag to death," said the New York girl.



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